



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary

Striped Bass Industry Work Group Outcome

Date: March 13, 2012

RECOMMENDATION: The Commercial Industry Striped Bass Work Group has recommended that the Department (1) place a cap on the number of Pound Net and Atlantic Striped Bass Permits (based on the number of permits held as of December 19th, 2011); and (2) freeze the 2013 gear specific allocations as distributed in 2012 - Pound Net (33%), Gill Net (43%) and Hook & Line (24%).

Motion by: Gibby Dean / Second by Russell Dukes

Vote: Unanimous support (17)

Background

The Commercial Industry Striped Bass Work Group (SBWG) convened from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, March 13th at the Tawes State Office Building in Annapolis. The purpose of the meeting was for the Alternative Management Subcommittee to report back to the full SBWG on progress made since November, 2011. The goal of the subcommittee was to identify areas of concern and develop an alternative management plan for the long-term sustainability of the Maryland striped bass commercial fishery.

The subcommittee was successful at identifying a number of areas of concern, however, the potential long-term solutions to many of these problems will require many more meetings of the subcommittee and SBWG. In order to make adjustments to the 2013 fishery, regulations need to be effective before the 2013 Declaration of Intent period in August 2012. This requires proposed regulations to be submitted on or before Friday, April 13th, 2012. Understanding this, the subcommittee decided to recommend two short-term solutions for 2013 to address recent shifts in gear specific allocations while they continue to work on a long-term plan.

Since 2009, there has been a shift in gear type participation as gill net and hook and line permit holders changed gears and entered the pound net and Atlantic fisheries. As a result of 80 new pound net and 17 new Atlantic permits, the strategy for quota distribution has changed. Over the last three years, the Striped Bass Industry Work Group has recommended that the Department move allocation from the hook & line and gill net fisheries to account for all of the new entrants in the pound net and Atlantic fisheries. The main reason for this is because both the pound net and Atlantic fisheries operate under an individual quota permit system.

Realizing that this trend will continue to cause significant allocation problems for everyone involved in the striped bass fishery, the subcommittee provided their suggested short-term solutions to the full SBWG. Essentially, the idea is to cap the number of pound net and Atlantic permits for one year (2013). This will stop the shift in gear participation into these two fisheries. The first time this idea was discussed was during the subcommittee meeting on December 19th, therefore, the subcommittee wanted to highlight this date as a control date. In addition, the subcommittee recommended freezing the current gear specific

quota distribution in the Chesapeake Bay for 2013. Currently, the Chesapeake Bay allocation of striped bass is distributed as follows: Pound Net (33%), Gill Net (43%) and Hook & Line (24%).

Important Note: The subcommittee emphasized to the SBWG that this is a short-term solution for 2013. Over the next year, they intend to work closely with the Department to develop a plan for the long-term sustainability for the striped bass fishery in 2014 and beyond. They requested revisiting this issue next year at this time if a long-term plan has not been developed.